

document as mentioned in reply to parts (a) & (b), contraband goods including narcotic drugs worth Rs. 111.80 crores (provisional) were seized by custom authorities throughout the country in 10246 cases during the period from June, 91 to August 91.

(d) The persons found involved in smuggling activities are penalised in departmental adjudication and are prosecuted in courts of law in suitable cases. They are also detailed under the Conservation of Foreign Exchange and prevention of Smuggling Act, 1974, if considered necessary.

Enforcement of foreigners (Restricted Area) Order, 1963

5764. SHRI DATTATRAYA BANDARU:
SHRI BALRAJ PASSI:
SHRI VIRENDRA SINGH:
DR. G.L.KANAUJIA:
SHRI RAMESH CHAND TOMAR:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the states which have been declared restricted area under the foreigners (Restricted Area) Order, 1963;

(b) whether it has affected the tourist traffic in these States;

(c) whether any state's administration/ Government has sought withdrawal of the above order; and

(d) if so, the reaction of the Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI M.M. JACOB): (a) Assam' Meghalaya , Tripura,

certain parts of Sikkim and Union Territory of Andaman & Nicobar Islands have been declared as restricted areas under the Foreigners (Restricted Areas) Order, 1963.

(b) For promotion of tourism development, various places have been opened up for entry and movement of foreign tourists from time to time. The Government has been gradually relaxing the provisions under the above order to facilitate the movement of foreign tourists in the interest of tourism development in these states.

(c) and (d). Of late, some requests were received from the state governments/Union Territory Administration. These were examined and relaxations were issued, wherever feasible, keeping in view the overall requirement of tourism promotion and consideration of national security.

92 *Andhra Pradesh*
 Closure of sponge iron India Ltd. Units

5765. SHRI SOBHNADREESWARA RAO VADDE:
PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU:

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether some units of sponge iron India Ltd. at Paloncha in Andhra Pradesh have been closed down;

(b) if so, the reason therefor and the loss incurred by the SAIL as a result therefor; and

(c) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to receive the unit there?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) and (b). One of the two rotary kilns of the sponge iron plants of Sponge iron India Ltd. (SAIL) at Paloncha in Andhra Pradesh was closed down during